

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for providing a network-based supply chain interface capable of  
2 maintaining the anonymity of supply chain participants in the supply chain,  
3 comprising:  
4 a) receiving data from a plurality of supply chain participants of a supply chain  
5 utilizing a network;  
6 b) assigning each of the supply chain participants with an identifier; and  
7 c) listing the data for each of the supply chain participants utilizing the identifier to  
8 preserve the anonymity of the supply chain participants.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 (3.) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier includes a numeric string.
- 1 (4.) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier indicates a region where the  
2 associated store is located. *Zip code*
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the data is listed utilizing a network-based  
2 interface.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the supply chain participants include restaurants.  
*design choice*
- 1 7. A system for providing a network-based supply chain interface capable of  
2 maintaining the anonymity of supply chain participants in the supply chain,  
3 comprising:  
4 a) logic for receiving data from a plurality of supply chain participants of a supply  
5 chain utilizing a network;

- 6 b) logic for assigning each of the supply chain participants with an identifier; and
  - 7 c) logic for listing the data for each of the supply chain participants utilizing the
  - 8 identifier to preserve the anonymity of the supply chain participants.
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- 1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.
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- 1 9. The system of claim 7, wherein the identifier includes a numeric string.
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- 1 10. The system of claim 7, wherein the identifier indicates a region where the
  - 2 associated store is located.
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- 1 11. The system of claim 7, wherein the data is listed utilizing a network-based
  - 2 interface.
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- 1 12. The system of claim 7, wherein the supply chain participants include restaurants.
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- 1 13. A computer program product for providing a network-based supply chain
  - 2 interface capable of maintaining the anonymity of supply chain participants in the
  - 3 supply chain, comprising:
  - 4 a) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of supply chain participants of a
  - 5 supply chain utilizing a network;
  - 6 b) computer code for assigning each of the supply chain participants with an
  - 7 identifier; and
  - 8 c) computer code for listing the data for each of the supply chain participants
  - 9 utilizing the identifier to preserve the anonymity of the supply chain participants.
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- 1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the
  - 2 Internet.
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- 1 15. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the identifier includes a
  - 2 numeric string.

- 1 16. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the identifier indicates a  
2 region where the associated store is located.
- 1 17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data is listed utilizing a  
2 network-based interface.
- 1 18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the supply chain participants  
2 include restaurants.

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